Consecration of the Chancel Memorial Altar and Reredos and Transept

of

Grace Church

Mt. Airy, Philadelphia

Third Sunday in Lent

March 22d, 1908

Consecration by

The Right Rev. D. W. Whitaker, D.D., LL.D.

Bishop of Pennsylvania

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THE REV. SIMEON C. HILL, *Rector.*

Members of the Vestry.

CHARLES M. BAYARD ..... Accounting Warden
DR. A. L. E. CROUTER ..... Rector's Warden
FRED. M. DUNN ..... Secretary

E. V. LANSDALE
HENRY L. BUTLER
WILLIAM H. THORNE
ROBERT S. BRIGHT
C. H. LANDENBERGER
S. MENDELSON MEEHAN
JAMES WILSON BAYARD
RALPH H. NORTH
FRANCIS I. GOWEN

Processional Hymn

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King!

Bright youth, and snow-crowned age,
Strong men and maidens meek:
Raise high your free, exulting song!
God's wondrous praises speak!

With all the angel choirs,
With all the saints of earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth!

Your clear hosannas raise,
And alleluias loud!
Whilst answering echoes upward float,
Like wreaths of incense cloud.

Yes, on through life's long path!
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe.

Still lift your standard high!
Still march in firm array!
As warriors through the darkness toil,
Till dawns the golden day!

At last the march shall end;
The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their Father's house,
Jerusalem the blest.

Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King!

¶ The Bishop of the Diocese having taken his chair on the north side of the Sanctuary the Rector of the Church shall approach him and say.

Right Reverend Father in God, In the name and on behalf of the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry and of the congregation of Grace Church, I request you to consecrate this Chancel and this Memorial Altar and Reredos and all the improvements and additions which have been made to this Church, to the service of Almighty God.

¶ The Bishop shall reply,

I am willing so to do, The Lord being my helper.

¶ Then proceeding to the midst of the Sanctuary, the Bishop shall say,

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R. Who hath made Heaven and Earth.
V. The Lord's name be praised.
R. Henceforth, world without end.
V. Lord, we have loved the habitation of Thy House.
R. And the place where Thine Honor dwelleth.
V. Lord, hear our prayer.
R. And let our cry come unto Thee.

O Lord God, Who in the ancient days wast pleased to accept the offerings made to Thee on the altar which Noah builded; and Who afterwards didst hallow Thine altar in Thy holy temple; and art pleased to sanctify the gifts which are offered to Thee in Thy earthly courts; we humbly beseech Thee to receive as Thine own this new transept and chancel and this memorial altar and reredos now erected in Thy name. Cleanse them from all earthly pollution, hallow them by Thy Divine Spirit and bless them evermore for Thy sacred worship: And grant that as Thou, our Great High Priest, ministered at Thy celestial altar in Thine eternal Temple, so we may be fitted by the ministries of Thy Church on earth to worship in Thine unveiled presence in the midst of angels and archangels and all the company of heaven; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

Grant, O Lord, that they who in this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows made for them by their sureties at their baptism and thereupon be confirmed by the Bishop, may continue Thine forever, and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more until they come to Thine everlasting Kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant that they who shall be joined together in this place in the Holy Estate of Matrimony may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and remain in perfect love and peace together unto their lives' end. *Amen.*

Grant that those who shall here confess their sins, and seek of Thee, the God of all consolation, mercy and pardon, peace and quietness, may ever find Thee in the fulness of Thine abundant charity. *Amen.*

Grant that Thy Holy Word, which shall be read and preached in this place, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same. *Amen.*

Grant that they who shall here offer the Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving, may find and feel that such sacrifices are acceptable unto Thee. *Amen.*

Grant that they who shall here receive the Holy Sacrament of Thy love may so eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ and drink His Blood, that their sinful bodies may be made clean by His most Sacred Body, and their souls washed through His most Precious Blood, and that they may evermore dwell in Him and He in them. *Amen.*

And be pleased, O Lord, as Thou didst accept the offering of Solomon in the House that he built for the glory of Thy Name, to receive the varied gifts here presented for Thy service. Bless those who have given of their substance towards adorning and completing this House of Prayer. Remember this to them, O Lord, for good. Bless them in their going out and coming in, in mind and body, in spirit and estate. *Amen.*

And so we beseech Thee, O Lord, to bless and sanctify this Chancel and Memorial Altar and Reredos and Transept which we now consecrate to Thy service and glory. *Amen.*

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and earth is Thine: Thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as Head over all. All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

[I Chron. xxix: 11-15.]

¶ The Bishop shall then return to his seat.

Hymn

Thine forever! God of love,
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be,
Here, and in eternity.

Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Saviour, Guardian, heavenly Friend,
Oh, defend us to the end!

Thine forever! Lord of life,
Shield us through our earthly strife:
Thou the Life, the Truth, the Way,
Guide us to the realms of day.

Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy weak and trembling sheep,
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let them all Thy goodness share.

Thine forever! Thou our Guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied;
All our sins by Thee forgiven,
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.

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Then shall follow the Order of Morning Prayer and the Order of Confirmation.